



1713 Eighth Avenue, #8  
Brooklyn, New York 11215  
718.360.1707  
www.oatsny.org

December 2, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: In re the Matter of a National Broadband Plan for Our Future, NBP Public Notice #16, GN Docket No. 09-51**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of OATS I would like to notify you of contact our office had with Jennifer Flynn from the FCC with respect to input from OATS on the National Broadband Plan. This *ex parte* filing is in addition to the formal filing of OATS comments submitted by my organization today. To summarize my conversations with Ms. Flynn:

OATS believes there is intense demand from older adults for programs and services, and we described some of the local programs to Ms. Flynn that we utilize to engage senior citizens in learning about broadband services. We discussed the OATS "touch tank" model where we invite seniors to come test out new technologies and ask questions in a supportive environment about the functions and use of different devices. We also discussed the OATS curriculum and training system, which provides up to 20 class sessions of free training to seniors who wish to learn computer basics, advanced computing, digital photography, workforce skills, or health IT skills.

Finally, Ms. Flynn and I discussed the importance of technology in helping seniors save money on prescription drugs through the Medicare Part D program. OATS operated a program in 2005 to provide peer counseling to older adults signing up for Medicare Part D plans, and I estimated that a similar program, operated at scale and with sustainable funding, could save an average of approximately \$50.00 per client in drug costs, assuming a five-year projection period.

Detailed comments are included in the formal "Comments" filing submitted to the FCC. I look forward to continued opportunities for public input into federal broadband policy. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thomas Kamber  
Thomas Kamber, Ph.D.  
Executive Director & Founder  
Older Adults Technology Services, Inc.